



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2011

District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS BEGINS SECOND PHASE OF HIGHWAY 46 EAST WIDENING

PASO ROBLES – Caltrans has begun construction on the second phase of widening Hwy. 46 from two to four lanes. This project will widen a five mile section of the highway from Geneseo Road to Almond Drive.

This \$54.1 million project is funded primarily by Proposition 1B, a \$20 billion transportation bond approved by voters in 2006.

“Highway 46 is an important transportation route, linking the Central Valley and the Central Coast. Widening it will improve safety and mobility for thousands of commuters, tourists and California’s agricultural industry who rely on this highway,” said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim.

Papich Construction of Pismo Beach, CA. is the contractor for the first and second phases of the project. Phase 1 includes a widening of Hwy. 46 East between Airport Road and Geneseo Road. Roadwork on this phase of the project is expected to be completed in April. Phase 2 should be completed by the end of 2014. A third phase to widen Hwy. 46 to near the Shandon Rest Area is expected to begin in 2014.

(more)





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“I am very pleased that our company will continue with the widening of this important corridor which will stimulate the local economy and create hundreds of jobs in San Luis Obispo County,” said Papich Construction Company President Jason Papich.

Since its passage, Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) have allocated nearly \$6 billion in Proposition 1B funds to improve California’s transportation system.

Work is already underway to widen Hwy. 46 in the Bakersfield/Lost Hills area as part of a plan to widen Hwy. 46 from the Central Valley to the Central Coast.

Caltrans reminds motorists that ‘we’re here to get you there.’

For traffic updates on other state highways in San Luis Obispo County, motorists can call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or can visit the District 5 website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/maint/road/upslo.htm>

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